

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, GH

SUBJ: GHANA'S ENVOYS MEET IN ACCRA

1. A CONFERENCE OF GHANA'S AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD FEBRUARY 6-15 IN ACCRA TO BRIEF ENVOYS ON UNION GOVERNMENT CONCEPT (WHICH WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF MARCH 30 REFERENDUM) AND ON GOG EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AT HOME.

2. DIPLOMATS WERE WELCOMED BY COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI AND ARMY COMMANDER KOTEL, WHO READ A SPEECH ON BEHALF OF HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG. OVER FOLLOWING DAYS, THEY WERE ALSO ADDRESSED BY COMMISSIONERS FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND TOURISM AND BY ATTORNEY-GENERAL. LATTER EXPLAINED THAT PROPOSED NO-PARTY UNION GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE SAME AS ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT, SINCE IT PROVIDES THAT MEMBERS OF

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PARLIAMENT ARE TO BE ELECTED ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL MERITS AND NOT THROUGH THE MACHINERY OF A POLITICAL PARTY. UNION GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO OUTLINED BY AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO UN APPIAH AND PEACH AND SOLIDARITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT GHAPSON.

3. AT DINNER FOR ENVOYS, COMMISSIONER FELLI

REAFFIRMED GHANA'S COMMITMENT TO AFRICAN UNITY AND SELF-DETERMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. RECEIVING ENVOYS AT END OF CONFERENCE, ACHEAMPONG URGED THEM TO PROMOTE GHANA'S EXPORTS, TO PAY ATTENTION TO GHANAIS ABROAD WHO MAY NEED HELP AND TO AVOID PARTISAN DIFFERENCES WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IN REPLY AND SPEAKING FOR HIS COLLEAGUES, AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA K.K.S. DADZIE SAID DIPLOMATS UNDERSTOOD NEED TO TRANSFORM POLITICAL STRIFE INTO COOPERATION AND UNITY AND ASSURED ACHEAMPONG OF ENVOY'S LOYALTY TO HIM.

4. COMMENT: CONFERENCE APPARENTLY WENT WELL. ENVOYS ARE PRESUMABLY NOW BETTER EQUIPPED TO FIELD QUESTIONS ABOUT UNION GOVERNMENT AND CONDITIONS IN GHANA. WE DO NOT THINK THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN EXPLAINING UNION GOVERNMENT TO THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS BUT IT IS CONCEIVABLE THIS MAY BE DONE IN SOME MAJOR POSTS, E.G. WASHINGTON AND LONDON. HOWEVER, CONCEPT REMAINS UNPOPULAR AND POORLY DEFINED; DEMARCHES ARE LIKELY TO REFLECT THESE DEFECTS. IN ANY CASE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONSIDERS MEETING A SUCCESS AND PLANS TO CALL SUCH CONFERENCES MORE FREQUENTLY IN THE FUTURE, PERHAPS EVERY OTHER YEAR.

SMITH

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